



# RSU23 MEMO

## Superintendent's Monthly Update

### *A Note From Mr. Suttie*

As we enter the month of March, I am delighted to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the significant events and milestones that make this time of year so special. This month, we observe Women's History Month, a time to honor and celebrate the countless contributions of women throughout history and in our communities. Additionally, we welcome the arrival of spring, a season that symbolizes renewal, growth, and hope.

In March, our schools engage in various activities and events to mark these occasions, including the much-anticipated beginning of spring sports. As our student-athletes take to the fields, we celebrate their dedication and teamwork, fostering a sense of community and school spirit. We invite you to join us in supporting our young athletes and celebrating the achievements of women and the beauty of the changing seasons. Let us embrace this month as a time of growth,

collaboration, and inspiration, both on and off the playing fields.

Together, let us continue to foster an environment where our children can thrive and reach their full potential. Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to the success of our students.

#### **RIP Sergeant Mattia**

The RSU 23 community mourns the loss of Vincent (Vinnie) Mattia after a brief illness. Vinnie was a long-time Old Orchard Beach Police officer, former School Resource Officer, and coach in RSU 23. Many of our staff, students, alumni, and families have known and worked with Vinnie. Vinnie made you feel welcome and cared about. He would always want to chat and check in on the schools no matter how busy he was. Vinnie will be forever remembered as a wonderful member of the RSU 23 Old Orchard Beach Community. He will be sorely missed by our staff, students, and families.

**March  
2024**

### *HIGHLIGHTS*

District News

Sergeant Mattia

Food & Nutrition Services

Caroline Trinder

Jameson School

Loranger School

High School

**[School Board Meeting Link](#)**  
(Third Thursday of Month)

# Food & Nutrition Services

Food and Nutrition Services have had a very fun and eventful winter! Our most exciting venture has been using our new Flex Farms!

These hydroponic growing stations were purchased



using funds from a state-funded grant and have been growing lettuce for all students to try.



We have partnered with many classes across all three schools to help plant and harvest the produce. Students are loving the opportunity to watch their food grow and participate in planting as well as learning about testing the nutrient and pH levels of the water in the growing station.



On February 14, Old Orchard Beach students were treated to a plated, restaurant-style lunch prepared by our team and served by OOBHS staff. University of New England dietetic intern, Jackie, organized this special Valentine's lunch. Students were treated to a strawberry demi salad followed by chicken parmesan, linguine, a garlic knot, roasted green beans, and red velvet cupcakes. Students and staff loved the meal.



## Caroline Trinder

Two weeks ago, Caroline Trinder, Food Service Director, traveled to Washington DC with the Maine School Nutrition Association for a conference and meetings with our elected officials. Caroline has been consistently recognized by the Department of Education for her leadership and as one of the top school food service directors in Maine.



## Jameson Updates

March is Read Across America Month and classrooms at Jameson have been full of guest readers. It has been a great way to encourage reading while also connecting Jameson to the greater OOB community. Students have heard from several officials including the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Superintendent of Schools, School Board members, Parks and Rec Director, parents, and more! Mr. Harris and Mrs. DalPra are also hosting a Facebook Live competition on Tuesday nights at 6:30. Please tune in and vote for your favorite.

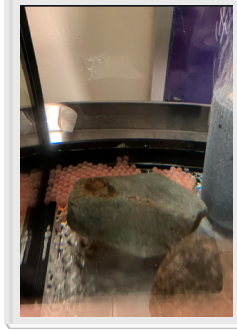


On Friday, March 15th, 140 students from Kindergarten-Second grade attended the Portland Ballet's performance of Sleeping Beauty. The Ballet talked about several of the artistic elements that go into creating a show. It was wonderful to be able to provide students with an opportunity many of them normally would not have.



## Kindergarten News

This month, Kindergarten students received their Atlantic Salmon eggs - 200 of them to be exact! Through mid-May, students will get to watch the eggs hatch and eventually develop into fry. Once they become fry they will be released back into the Little River in Lisbon Falls.



## Pre-K and Kindergarten Registration



The Jameson school staff and district administration are busy planning for the 2024-2025 school year. A projection of our enrollment for next year will allow us to plan more effectively to know what our needs are. You can help by informing us of any child who will be entering Pre-K or kindergarten in the fall of 2024. This registration is only needed for students not already attending Jameson School.

To enter a new pre-K child, they must be four years of age by October 15, 2024, and to enter kindergarten a child must be five years of age by October 15, 2024. If you have or know of a child who will fit this criteria, please complete the registration [form found on our website](#), or call the school office at (207) 934-3703.

Direct link to form:

<https://jameson.rsu23.org/parents-students/prek-registration/>

If you become aware of new families with school age children moving into the community, please encourage them to contact the school so the child can be included in our numbers.

## Loranger Updates

### Loranger Memorial School in the News!

Loranger environmental science projects are spotlighted in the annual reports from two Maine organizations and their partners.

- Part of the [Census on Community-based Outdoor and Environmental Learning in Maine](#), released February 29 at the State House, the Loranger pollinator project is a case study for exemplary climate science education. The Census is a state overview; the [Save Our Pollinators](#) project is on pages 9-12 in the case studies.
- The Gulf of Maine Research Institute's 2023 annual report, released in March, includes Loranger in several parts of the [2022-23 Education Impact Report: Empowering our Next Generation of Climate Scientists](#).

LabVenture: Loranger fifth graders ([see map](#)) have participated in LabVenture at GMRI for many years, building a foundation for further investigations of local ecosystems and climate science.

Community Science: Investigating Local Ecosystems: This section focuses on our Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) project, now in its sixth year. Loranger students also study invasive crabs in grade 7, vernal pools in grade 3 and GATES, and phragmites and coastal flooding in GATES.

Findings from the Field: GATES students have written articles for Findings since its inception. They also peer review articles from other schools. Laura Seaver, featured in the spotlight box, successfully uses Findings articles in her fifth grade classes.



## *Mock Trial*

Seventh grade held our annual Outsiders book mock court trial this year at the Old Orchard Beach Police Station. Students took on the roles of lawyers, character witnesses, jurors and bailiffs. Each role required students to prepare by researching, exploring character roles, identifying text evidence and creating persuasive arguments. Special thanks to Chief Elise Chard for allowing us to use the station's community room for our event. Parent guest jurors commented that it looked like a real court room. Attached are some photos of the trials.

## *Loranger Community Science*

Seventh grade GATES scientists have started a new project. Each month we'll go to the OOB pier and Ocean Park on one of the highest tide days to take photos and collect data for the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Coastal Flooding Project. "The goal of this project is to help coastal communities gather data to understand their unique flooding impacts and begin to identify priorities for building resilience." ([GMRI Coastal Flooding Project](#))



## *High School Updates*

An overview of **Industrial Arts** at OOBHS shows a diverse program with offerings for students in several areas. Students learning the basics of residential building principles as they start the construction of a new crossing guard shack to replace the old one on the corner at LMS. The new shack will have many upgrades including: power, lights, heat, and a concrete pad.



The High School program is also revitalizing a welding booth to be added to a segment in its Industrial Design classes.

Along with welding the students are also completing segments in basic residential wiring and residential plumbing.

New to the 23/24 school year is a Drone Technology course offering. With the focus on assembly and repair, coding and programming, and the many uses of drones in industry today, students are engaging in complex problem solving activities to enhance their learning in this rapidly growing field.



# English Department

In English I, we have just started reading the novel **Every Day** by David Levithan. While reading this novel, we dive deep into the idea of putting ourselves in other people's shoes. We push ourselves to learn how to be empathetic and respectful towards others, even if we have a different opinion or belief. Recently in class, we worked on a reflection activity with deep and personal questions. Students first completed this activity independently and reflected on their own beliefs. Students then interviewed a teacher or friend they felt comfortable with to get their perspective. Following that, they got to partner up with a friend or someone they felt comfortable with sharing what they collected and wrote down, and ended the activity in groups with students sharing their perspectives and appropriately responding to others' opinions and ideas. This pushed students to not only develop their own ideas and thoughts, but also learn how to listen to others and respectfully respond to them (whether they are agreeing or disagreeing).



At the end of February, WGME put out a notice that there were three Maine WWII veterans celebrating milestone birthdays: 101, 103, and 105! They asked that anyone interested send them a card with well wishes. The sophomore English classes just read *Night* by Elie Weisel, which is based in WWII; so, we thought it would be nice to send them a card wishing them a happy birthday and thanking them for their service. This was a nice opportunity to have students make real life connections to a text they have been learning about in our schools, while honoring these gentlemen here in our home state.

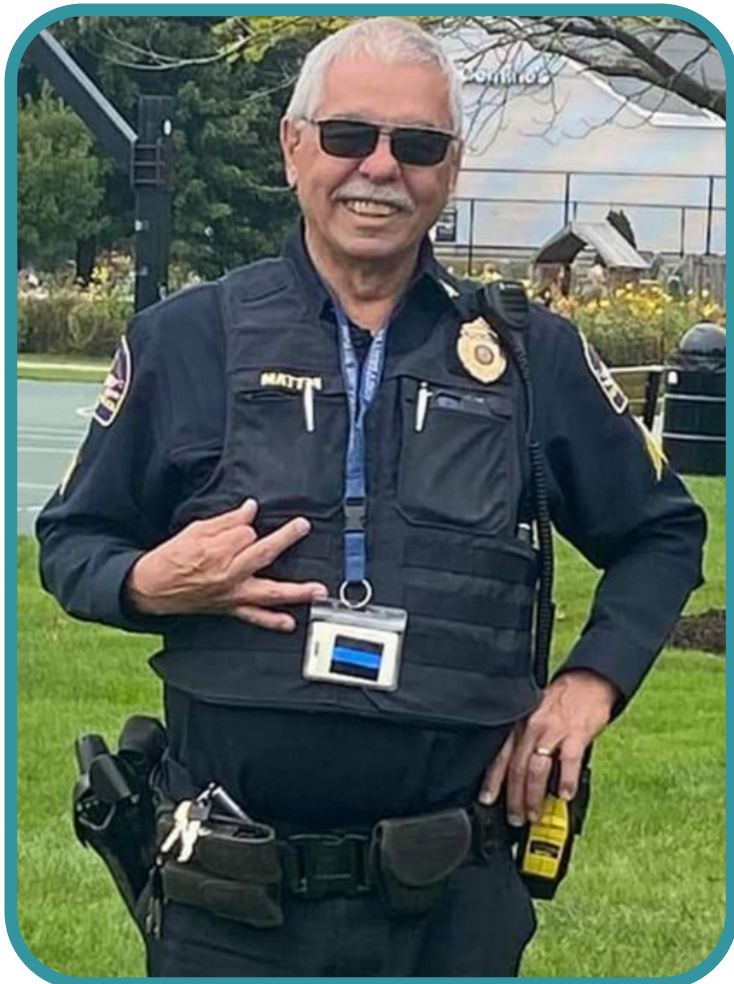


# *OOB Drama Club*



Old Orchard Drama Production of the Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon: We had 34 middle school and high school students participate in this year's March 8th show acting, working sound and lights, creating backdrops and operating sets. Tisha Kuchta directed the play, Miranda Shepherd assisted in directing, Elaine Lees focused on costume design and Trevor Lavenbein ran the sound board, hooked us up to mics and organized lights. Approximately 300 people attended our night performance and 240 LMS students enjoyed the day show.

## *Sergeant Vincent (Vinnie) Mattia*



*October 31, 1957 - March 13, 2024*

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### *CALENDAR*

March 21- TONIGHT  
Town Hall 6 PM  
**School Board Meeting**

April 3  
Early Release Day

April 12 to April 19  
April Vacation

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